An out-of-school influence on my academic development would definitely stem from my sister, Emily. Even with a four year gap, we have grown up extremely close to one another. Reason being, both my parents have been absent in my life due to health issues, but my sister was always there to motivate me and push me to do my best in school! It works vise versa, whenever we are stressed out, we would help each other break down the material and study together. Not having a mother living with us also took a toll on our family whether it was having dinner, getting a ride to and from sports, etc. My sister was the rock to my family sticking it out together. My dad is an engineer and is good with Math so he use to help me with my math homework in elementary school. Some of my friends were good influences on me doing well in school, and some I have stumbled upon in my life, were not. I tried my best to separate the good from the bad influences. Other than that, I didn't have much other outside influence other than a select few friends and my sister.